



Daily Highlights

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W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- * Secretary-General says UNPROFOR should be replaced by ad hoc coalition of Member States to support implementation of hoped-for peace agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- * United Nations again urges immediate cessation of military activities in western Bosnia, citing worsening refugee crisis and ongoing peace process.
- * High Commissioner for Human Rights appeals for more funding for Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda; talks on repatriation of Rwandan refugees to begin in Geneva on Monday.
- * United Nations and NGOs must forge new partnership to address global challenges, Special Adviser Green tells DPI/NGO Conference.
- * Secretary-General to convene seventh round of talks on East Timor in London on 16 January 1996.
- * Secretary-General to address interfaith prayer service commemorating fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that as soon as a peace agreement is concluded in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he will recommend that the Security Council authorize an ad hoc coalition of Member States to support its implementation. He did so in a letter to the President of the Council dated 18 September. The letter set out observations made following his in-depth review of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with senior aides on Saturday.

The proposed coalition would act as appropriate with regional organizations or arrangements, according to the Secretary-General. Aspects of the peace agreement relating to the relief and return of refugees and displaced persons would continue to be entrusted to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

(more)

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If the current peace initiative did not succeed and the Security Council decided upon more enforcement action, UNPROFOR should be replaced by a multinational force authorized to carry out such action and to assume responsibility for those aspects of the Force's mandate which would remain valid, he continued. In either case, urgent action would be required to prepare for an expeditious hand-over by UNPROFOR to the multinational force.

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The United Nations has again urged the parties in western Bosnia to immediately cease all military activities so as not to exacerbate the refugee crisis or disrupt the ongoing peace process. There were reports today that fighting in the area had subsided, but the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was unable to confirm that the offensive by Bosnian Government and Croatian forces had halted. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the numbers of refugees was rising daily and warned that if the fighting continued, the situation could develop into one of the worst refugee tragedies of the war.

Meanwhile, UNPROFOR announced that the Bosnian Serbs had moved a total of 232 heavy weapons out of the Sarajevo exclusion zone as of last night. The Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, met today with UNPROFOR Commander General Rupert Smith and Admiral Leighton Smith of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to determine whether the Serbs had complied sufficiently with demands in that regard. In another development, UNPROFOR expressed outrage and anger after Bosnian Government forces fired three mortar rounds out of the city.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, today appealed for more funding for the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the Operation had only enough money to operate through November. It had cost only \$10 million in its first year, which was not much compared with the money spent on the refugee crisis alone. Financial constraints meant that the Operation could not achieve its full strength of 147 human rights field officers, and financial insecurity negatively affected mid- and long-term planning.

In spite of many obstacles, the Field Operation had developed a comprehensive and pro-active programme to address past, present and potential human rights violations in Rwanda, Mr. Ayala Lasso continued. It had gathered vital evidence for the International Tribunal and continued to document how the genocide had been perpetrated last year. The Operation had also helped the Rwandan Government to practically rebuild the national system of justice.

(more)

In a related development, officials from Zaire, Rwanda and the UNHCR will begin talks in Geneva on Monday on the process of repatriating more than one million Rwandan refugees.

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A new partnership must be forged between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations to address daunting global challenges, according to Assistant Secretary-General Rosario Green, Special Political Adviser to the Secretary-General. She said yesterday that the Secretariat was looking at structures and mechanisms through which the Organization interacted with the non-governmental organization community. She made those comments in a statement to the Department of Public Information (DPI) Conference for NGOs.

Speaking during a special session of the Conference on the World Week of Peace, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Betty Williams stated that military budgets were "insane and must be stopped." Citing the cease-fire in Northern Ireland, she said that a philosophy of non-violence worked and that "safe areas" should be created so that children could grow up in peace.

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The Secretary-General will hold a seventh round of talks on the question of East Timor with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal in London on 16 January 1996. In a report to the General Assembly dated 15 September, he said they would continue discussions on the substantive issues identified by him regarding possible avenues for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution. The Ministers began discussions on such issues as the preservation and promotion of the cultural identity of the East Timorese people and bilateral relations between them at the sixth round of talks in Geneva last July.

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An interfaith prayer service will be convened at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The service will bring together leaders of different spiritual traditions and faiths and will highlight the spiritual threads which unite all people and reflect the purpose, ideals and accomplishments of the Organization. The Secretary-General is expected to deliver an address.

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